

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Public Safety Training Center

5370 Public Safety Place

Frederick, MD 21704

MINUTES of May 30, 2017 Meeting

I. The meeting was called to order.

II. The following members were present: Mari Lee, Tonya Amedon, Lisa Clark, Francisco Alves, Adam Book, David Kaye, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye, Lee Whisner, Gene Stanton, Irene Packer-Halsey and Roger Sobkowiak.

III. Other persons present were FPD Capt. Patrick Grossman, Michael Baran and Chris Isleib.

IV. An invitation was extended to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. The April 2017 HRC meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by vote without corrections.

VI. Captain Grossman reported that a training academy is currently underway for newly hired FPD officers. He also said that there have been more than 50 overdoses in Frederick on synthetic marijuana, called "spice," in recent months. There were 2 fatalities. Captain Grossman encouraged HRC members to help get the word out that there's bad stuff on the street which could be very harmful.

Captain Grossman said that the recently spray painting of a racist comment on a car happened in the county. The Sheriff's Office is investigating and will probably issue a press release soon. He said that the publicity will hopefully prompt someone with information to come forward. Mari Lee said she would check with the Sheriff's Office on whether there was anything the HRC could do.

VII. The Executive Committee reported that HRC members are encouraged to volunteer to help at Frederick Pride on June 24. This will be the HRC's day of service for this quarter. A tour of the County jail is also being planned for some time in June

VIII. Treasurer Lisa Clark reported that the HRC has \$2,584.33 in funds on hand.

IX. Vice-Chair Tonya Amedon reported that she appointed a Nominating Committee, which had met and prepared a slate of nominations for the HRC officer positions, to begin service on July 1, 2017. The nominations were:

Chair: Mari Lee
Vice-Chair: Lisa Clark
Parliamentarian: David Kaye
Member at Large: Lee Whisner
Treasurer: Annette Breiling

X. Mari Lee presented and discussed the Best Practice Guide which has been prepared for HRC members.

XI. Roger Sobkowiak presented information and data about matters that the HRC could review and decide to focus on. Selected as priority items by members were poverty, employment, housing and education. Roger suggested that seniors, health care and food security should also be considered.

Roger said that his research indicated that there are 100 elected officials at various levels in Frederick County. 17 are women and 1 is a person of color. All the others are white males.

Irene Packer-Halsey asked if he had looked at the Pew Research Center and the Poverty Law Center for data, and whether his numbers on homelessness included immigrants. Irene said that Livable Frederick is looking at some of this same information.

Mari Lee thanked Roger for his hard work collecting data, and said that it would be up to the HRC at some future point to discuss and decide what recommendations, if any, should be made in writing by the HRC to the County Council and/or the County Executive.

Other HRC members also thanked Roger for his work. Some indicated that the scope of the data and information seemed overwhelming, and that it might be more productive to focus on one issue at a time.

Mari Lee mentioned that many other state and local agencies are already at work on many of the topics Roger mentioned. Irene said that lots of work in almost all of these areas has already been done.

XII. In addition to the Frederick Pride day of service on June 24, members were encouraged to keep the following upcoming items in mind, and try to attend if possible:

June 24 – Asbury Block Party from 11 am until 3 pm. HRC will have a table.

June 24 – Carver Block Party from 11 am until 5 pm. Good activities for kids.

June 17 – Blessings in a Backpack – Twilight 8K run, 5 pm until 9 pm. Volunteers needed.

June 14 – FCPS Board of Education will meet and consider adopting a transgender policy.

August 1 - National Night Out at various locations

June 1 – LGBT Pride Proclamation at City Hall

XIII. Those attending who chose to do so made brief final comments.

XIV. The meeting was adjourned.